

**Interview with Anna Pauline Price “Pat”  
Conducted by Janet Tener for the  
Providence District History Project Providence Perspective**

**August 19, 2008**

**Janet:** It is August 19<sup>th</sup> 2008, and we are in the lovely historic home of Anna Pauline Price at 10420 Miller Road in Oakton. We are going to do an oral history interview with Ms. Price today to find out about her family history in the area as part of the Providence Perspectives Project. With me today is Linda Smyth representing – I mean Linda Byrne representing Supervisor Linda Smyth’s office, of course Anna Pauline “Pat” Price and I am Janet Tener an Oakton resident who is a volunteer on the project.

Good morning Ms Price and thank you so much for letting us join you today. I guess I wanted to start out by asking you a little bit about where you were born in Oakton and your family history and when and so forth and who your grandparents were and any siblings, spouses, children etc. so I’ll just turn it over to you –

**Pat:** Okay - ah believe it or not there were no hospitals in Virginia when I was born in 1926 or not any close by so I was born in the Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, D.C. And for the first year of my life I lived in Washington with my parents. But we quickly moved to Five Oaks which is just down the road between here and Vienna.

And then when I was two my mother brought me home here in Oakton to this house my grandfather had built in 1916. And when he built it in sixteen my mother was still a child

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** And ah but I love this house – I’ve always loved living here. And of course it was here until 83 (1983) on (route) 123. And then my mother was paying commercial taxes and she couldn’t do it on social security. So she looked around and found one lot that was available within this area. And ah, she was able to wheel and deal – she was in real estate at the time. And she was able to make

this – ah – this offer possible for her and she made quite a bit of money on the deal and she kept her house which she loved with all her heart.

**Janet:** What is on the property where the house was originally sited now - what's on that property?

**Pat:** It's the Weichert Real Estate.

**Janet:** Oh, okay so it's just around the corner from here literally.

**Pat:** Yes, right across from the Exxon station and across from the Oakton United Methodist Church.

**Janet:** Well that must have been quite a production to put a house of a certain vintage – probably so well built that it was capable of being moved. But that must have been quite a community event to see that house moved.

**Pat:** It was so much fun. They let all the kids because it was in May – they let all the kids at Oakton School come out and sit on the bank and watch the house slowly come over the hill

**Janet:** (laughing)

**Pat:** and of course it moved very slowly. It was pulled on in here and then we used my neighbor's driveway to have the truck pull on out. The house was put on jacks. The basement was built underneath it and mother and I stayed in a Holiday Inn for nine weeks while they were doing all this

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** – all expenses paid by the new owner.

**Janet:** (laughing)

**Pat:** So it was wonderful.

**Janet:** Well, I'm curious about your mother; did she, was she originally from this area as well?

**Pat:** Oh yes.

**Janet:** Okay,

**Pat:** She

**Janet:** What was her family name?

**Pat:** She was born - her family name was - Kenyon and she was born on Germantown Road just above Oak Marr Recreation Center. The results of the basement are still there right next to ah Germantown Road. Ah, Fairfax County Parks Authority was going to do something about it because you can see where the basement of the house was and also it was also the same basement of my great grandmother's place before the Civil War

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** when they came down here to live.

**Janet:** And where did they migrate from?

**Pat:** From the state of Michigan.

**Janet:** From Michigan.

**Pat:** uh huh.

**Janet:** So they had gone west and decided to sort of come back south and east.

**Pat:** Yes, now that was my mother's side of the family.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** But the Kenyon side of the family came down during the Civil War. And ah Captain Kenyon fought with the 50<sup>th</sup> New York Engineers for the North. And ah right after the war was over he said I'm going to settle in Virginia cause it's better for farmers you know

**Janet:** uh huh.

**Pat:** – the weather is better.

**Janet:** uh huh.

**Pat:** And he found a farm where the Westwood Country Club is now.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** And he lived there for many many years.

**Janet:** Did the farm have a name of any kind or was it just the Kenyon place?

**Pat:** I don't know, I have some pictures here where it was sold in the 30's after he had gone and it probably does have a name.

**Janet:** uh huh - and then did your mother have brothers and sisters?

**Pat:** Yes, she had ah one brother and two sisters and they all, they more or less grew up here. Let's see if the house was finished in 1916 and she was born in 1904 – that meant that she was 12 years old when she moved here.

**Janet:** uh huh.

**Pat:** At that time in 1916 they had no electricity. They had an out house and she said it had three holes; so small medium and large.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** They had a barn; they had a cow, ah chickens, pigs. All on 123 – can you imagine?

**Janet:** But would you say that was fairly common for the period?

**Pat:** Oh it was, oh yes, it was farmland everywhere you looked.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Even when I was little in the 30's why there was farmland everywhere.

**Janet:** um hum, and what about your father's family now did he

**Pat:** His family also was from this area. Ah his great grandfather ah no I guess it was just his grandfather was Elijah Dwyer and he lived out Hunter Mill Road where the Dwyers lived all the way, way out there almost to route 7.

**Janet:** ah hum and then does he - is there still that family still present or in the area do you know.

**Pat:** No, no I don't believe so.

**Janet:** And it was a farm that they lived on

**Pat:** I'm sure it was.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** I don't know too much about that –

**Janet:** yeah.

**Pat:** however I do have a book - a very good reference book written by my great aunt who wrote about the Dwyer family history.

**Janet:** Oh, oh, that might be of interest to the Virginia Room, the Fairfax County Virginia Room the Library

**Pat:** Yes, they may have a copy of it.

**Janet:** They may have – we will have to check on that.

**Pat:** I know that they have a copy of this that I typed up in 1982 – it's a diary that my great grandmother Snyder wrote. And um and that's her picture on the front.

**Janet:** Ms Price, I remember um attending a little locally, last year, a seminar on the Civil War activity going up and down Hunter Mill Road and you read something – you were one of the voices on that video production and you read something – and what was that that you read?

**Pat:** This letter was written by my great grandmother Charlotte Smith Kenyon on the Smith side of the family.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** Which would be my grandfather's side rather than my grandmother's side. And she wrote this, ah; when she was oh I guess she was about 70 just before she died. But she had been a teenager living on Hunter Mill Road just about across from Marbury you know

**Janet:** Oh right.

**Pat:** ah during the Civil War. And that's why she left this letter. I only read parts of it in that and the complete letter is here. And ah she must have been a brave little girl. She was ah only 13 or 14 at the time and she got on her horse and she rode it and did all kinds of things.

**Janet:** Now did your family, was it your understanding that your family and other families had particular affiliations you know or sympathies one way or the other in the war or did people try to remain neutral or

**Pat:** Well let's see, my father's people who were the Dwyers and the Cummins lived in Fairfax County and they were for the South.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** And they fought for the South. Ah, the Kenyons who was the gentleman that Charlotte Smith Kenyon married was from New York. And her family had come down from New York just years before; so they were for the North.

**Janet:** Oh

**Pat:** And as I had mentioned he fought with the 50<sup>th</sup> New York Engineers. So like the story says brother against brother –

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** so to speak.

**Janet:** um hum, and um do you have, of course this was your grandmother, not your

**Pat:** It was my great grandmother.

**Janet:** Great grandmother and your grandmother was she – she would not have been born at this point in time I guess.

**Pat:** No, she was born in 1870.

**Janet:** Okay so it would have been after the war so she would not have had any specific recollections of that activity during the war itself

**Pat:** No

**Janet:** At the time you were born, um here in Oakton, I mean earlier you had referenced the fact that it was very sort of pastoral and agrarian and people had farms and most families probably had horses and cows and of course chickens and all that

**Pat:** yes, right.

**Janet:** gardens and I'm curious though about whether there was any industry or business of any kind during the time you were growing up here.

**Pat:** Very little. There was always a country store and Roland Payne started the Country Store there where the Appalachian store was.

**Janet:** Outfitters

**Pat:** In the early thirties

**Janet:** early thirties.

**Pat:** and ah he had everything in the store. I mean from soup to nuts. And he had an association with the Washington Nationals baseball team. And he had them come out in the 30's for all these big something or others you know

**Janet:** Oh my gosh

**Pat:** and it was really a crowd pleaser I'll tell you. And he got everyone interested in the Washington Senators and their you know team and so forth and so on. He must have had some connections.

**Janet:** He must have.

**Pat:** And then down the street there was another store, so we had two stores to choose from.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Of course we had our church which was built in 1898 the Oakton United Methodist church.

**Janet:** Oh, okay um hum.

**Pat:** And we had a hundredth centennial in 1998 which was really quite nice

**Janet:** Yes I remember.



**Pat:** it was a three day affair you know. And of course the Church of the Brethren probably is just as old; and probably began just before the turn of the century.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Mr. Wetzel, who had married one of the many children of um, oh goodness, anyway um had a blacksmith shop

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** and it was right down the road, let's see um, just before you get to Hunter Mill Road right on the left. And a lot of people used his blacksmith shop for various things.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** A little later in the 40's there was a hardware store which is now, which was part of the old schoolhouse on 123.

**Janet:** okay.

**Pat:** That has been moved to Hunter Mill Road and looking so good these days getting ready for a grand opening I guess.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Hum – that's about the only industry. Oh, Mr. Craig who had a large place on the corner of Jermantown Road and 123 had turkeys in the fall and he sold hundreds of turkeys to people

**Janet:** Oh my.

**Pat:** around here and then he also had the moving company which is still in operation to this day. You know Craig movers.

**Janet:** Oh, oh yes.

**Pat:** My mother said that Mr. Craig was the hardest working man in Oakton she ever knew. I mean he worked from morning until midnight I guess. And of course he had several sons who passed on the work in the Craig moving. And then also there were several grandsons and great grandsons.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** So that's why it still lives today.

**Janet:** That's amazing. That's amazing.

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** That's amazing. What about, I want to go back to for a moment to the Oakton United Methodist Church, was that, was that the church that most of the community belonged to?

**Pat:** It was half and half.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** Half went to the Oakton United Methodist Church and half went to the Brethren Church where the Flint Hill Cemetery is located.

**Janet:** Okay, now is the, I'm not familiar with the Brethren Church but is that a Baptist affiliation or is it something else

**Pat:** I don't really know, but it's not much different than the Methodist;

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** because every summer when I was a kid their Bible school was a little more interesting than Oakton Methodist so I went to both.

**Janet:** to Bible, and did you just walked there.

**Pat:** Yes,

**Janet:** Obviously.

**Pat:** oh yes, yes, or roller skated.

**Janet:** laughing.

**Pat:** We use to roller skate on the black top all the time to the store.

**Janet:** laughing.

**Pat:** I wouldn't do it today.

**Janet:** Um, was the, what was the role of the church in the community. I mean obviously it provided Sunday services and that sort of thing. But was there much of a social life around the church.

**Pat:** Yes there was, in fact even prior to 1916 when this house was built down there across from the church – but before that it was a wooded area with huge oak trees and they had socials there – ice cream socials all the time and that was their spot to just go across the road and just have their social activities.

**Janet:** I'm curious to about the sense of distinctiveness of the Oakton Community as opposed to say Vienna or the area where the Vale church and schoolhouse is. Was there a very strong local community identification at the time or is that something that has sort of has evolved later?

**Pat:** Very much so, we knew all our neighbors and we helped all our neighbors. And most of us were related in some way.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** Now old man Speer came down here I think from New York also and settled in that big house that's on right across from the Flint Hill House there You know the older house there.

**Janet:** Yes, right, the white house.

**Pat:** it's surrounded by all these things

**Janet:** Yes

**Pat:** He had 13 children. Well all 13 kind of married different ones in the community and everything which makes the Craigs and the Weitzels and I could just name if I had the time all of them, all 14 children ended up with married names and then they had children. So we were a very loving community because we knew everyone and we loved everyone.

**Janet:** Um hum, and so you would say that the church was that the primary sort of unit of social activity and organization

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** did it kind of revolve around the church?

**Pat:** Yes, because I believe that Mr. Speer, Horton Speer was the one who donated the land for the Oakton United Methodist Church which was built just before the turn of the century.

**Janet:** Um hum. Now tell me a little bit about going to school here when you were growing up. Where were the schools and what were they called and so on?

**Pat:** Well, there was only one school – Oakton School

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** And Oakton in the 30's was elementary and high school. And we didn't even think of middle school in those days. A friend of mine has given me some time ago a drawing of how the Oakton School was laid out prior to the big fire in the winter of 44 when it burned to the ground.

**Janet:** ah, oh

**Pat:** There was something wrong with the heating system. It was no foul play or anything and luckily it was in the middle of the night and no one was hurt,

**Janet:** And no one was hurt.

**Pat:** wasn't that wonderful.

**Janet:** So what happened to the students where did they go when that happened?

**Pat:** Oh, they had to do lots of things. Now I have a letter here that one of the teachers wrote in her elderly years about what was done. They put some of the kids in the churches, the two churches. They put some in people's homes if they had large homes.

**Janet:** uh huh.

**Pat:** And they just spread them all out,

**Janet:** Oh my god.

**Pat:** and had to do so for – I don't know whether a year or two years before the new Oakton School was completed.

**Janet:** So what did they do about teachers because weren't there just one or two teachers in this school, I mean?

**Pat:** No, no, no, no there were quite a few teachers.

**Janet:** Oh they had for different

**Pat:** Yes. Yes.

**Janet:** Okay, okay.

**Pat:** Yes, I was going to school just prior to that I had just gotten out the year before, I believe, before the fire and ah they had a teacher for each grade.

**Janet:** I see.

**Pat:** A few grades taught two classes like third and fourth or fifth and sixth.

**Janet:** ah hum

**Pat:** But ah - and they all those teachers stayed with them and they went to their different places and all the records were burned of course. But luckily at the School Board Office they had the records which they had to pull out.

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** I imagine it was very difficult.

**Janet:** Wow. And so the local community just sort of rallied

**Pat:** Oh, they did

**Janet:** and found a place for each of these kids to go.

**Pat:** Yes, and since it was 1944 we were in this second World War.

**Janet:** yeah, yeah

**Pat:** But, we really hung together in those years. Ah, in 43 when I was going to Fairfax High we had what we called community service for all the kids that were in High School. And we each had a job to do. And it was wonderful.

**Janet:** um hum, and it was not, it wasn't, I mean it was required as part of the curriculum?

**Pat:** No, it was a volunteer thing.

**Janet:** It was volunteer?

**Pat:** But, I think everyone, everybody did it.

**Janet:** Everybody did it?

**Pat:** Yes, we got extra credit for it.

**Janet:** uh huh

**Pat:** But I know; I was a senior in 43 when the War was going on and I walked over to the city hall twice a week in the afternoon and typed up tire ration certificates. That was my little job. But each person had a different job to do.

**Janet:** And where was the school actually located.

**Pat:** Fairfax High?

**Janet:** Yeah.

**Pat:** Oh, it was like Paul the sixth today.

**Janet:** Oh, so that's – that must be very gratifying to see that a school has

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** the building has survived and that's a pretty building

**Pat:** Yes, and just a few years ago I went to a reunion and the auditorium had not changed in 50 years.

**Janet:** laughing

**Pat:** Everything else had changed.

**Janet:** laughing. I have to say that sounds like the Catholics; they are a little slow to catch up with technology in schools. I can say that as a Catholic.

**Pat:** Also laughing. Oh I love that school.

**Janet:** Yes, it's a beautiful, beautiful building.

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** I remember when I was growing up in Fairfax County occasionally my high school which was Lee High School had a football game against and we would come and just go oh, we wished our school was this pretty you know. It was before they built the new building and ah we always just thought oh, why don't they make high schools like this any more. Because Lee high school had been built in 1958 just as they were getting into that sort of concrete brick box style. The Fairfax High School was of the more you know elegant generation of school buildings in the County.

**Pat:** Well you see according to this letter written by Mrs. Pfuser who was a teacher for something like 28 years

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** in Oakton School. She said the original Oakton School was built in 1914 and of course then it was burned, it burned in 1944.

Well during the time from 1914 until 1936 it was a High School as well as a Grade School.

**Janet:** Wow, wow, was it common for people to complete High School.

**Pat:** Yes, I think at times they only had two years in High School in the early 20's but then by the mid 20's I believe they changed to 4 years of high school.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** And I know that my aunt Pauline was my mother's sister, graduated from there and so did my uncle.

**Janet:** Wow.



**Pat:** And then of course in 32 I started as a first grader and went all through the seven grades. We had no middle school so then you went straight to high school in the eighth

**Janet:** Oh right, I remember that.

**Pat:** – only eleven years of high school – only eleven years of school rather.

**Janet:** Well you had mentioned a couple of things. I'm sort of curious about how the community got together in a social way or in a celebratory way, um you know, you mentioned that there were ice cream socials hosted by the church and that the owner of the hardware store had some connection to the Washington Senators and managed to get them out here for exhibition -

**Pat:** Yes

**Janet:** type activities

**Pat:** Yes, right, it was the owner of the Country Store.

**Janet:** I'm sorry the Country Store – excuse me

**Pat:** Yes

**Janet:** And what are some of the other things that the community might have done together? Did women gather together to work on any kinds of projects?

**Pat:** hum

**Janet:** You know

**Pat:** The Oakton United Methodist Church had a Ladies Aide Society which was very very active. And if you read parts of the Oakton Church history you'd find details of that.

**Janet:** Okay, okay.

**Pat:** Um. The church, ah the School had all kinds of things like dances and parties. I remember in 1938 when I was 12 years old my grandmother, I thought was as old as the hills but she was only in her early 60's dressed up and went up to the Halloween party at Oakton School and fooled everyone. No one knew who she was

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** and so the Oakton School would have all kinds of parties and social events, talent shows.

**Janet:** Oh.

**Pat:** Um, and lots of basketball games

**Janet:** Uh huh.

**Pat:** which people went to. So, the original Oakton School had a huge auditorium which would seat in any number of people.

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** And hum, there was always something going on. So it was a rich life of activity.

**Janet:** Well that is I think a part, often a part of the history that is missing.

**Pat:** Uh huh.

**Janet:** When we read about, you know when buildings were created, and when roads were put in. We never know how did people actually live and get along together and so forth. And that's part of the reason I'm so curious about how people, you know, interacted

**Pat:** Yes

**Janet:** outside of their formal responsibilities, jobs, school and so forth. What was it like; did the community feel the impact of the depression in any specific way that you can recall?

**Pat:** Yes, terrifically so – ah I couldn't understand in 1932 when I started – and this is just a 6 year olds thoughts.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** Why the soup that you bought for a penny or two pennies every day at school was so watery. But you know I just accepted it – but it was very watery with very few vegetables in it. And I think that was because of that.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** Also you'll notice this picture was taken in 34 when we were still in the depression and you'll notice that some of the children have clothes that are hanging down and they are not in the best of shape because they were poor. They were coming from poor families.

**Janet:** Um hum and I see the little bob haircuts were very fashionable for the girls.

**Pat:** Yes, yes

**Janet:** the little girls

**Pat:** That was in 1934 when I was 8 years old my mother gave me a birthday party and those were all the little kids and of course

**Janet:** Which one is you?

**Pat:** here I am with the little fat face,

**Janet:** Ah (Laughing).

**Pat:** little round face.

**Janet:** Oh

**Pat:** And of course that was taken with 123 right here you know

**Janet:** hum hum

**Pat:** right here in the yard right there across from the Oakton Methodist Church.

**Janet:** Amazing, you had a lot of friends.

**Pat:** Oh, well I think my mother wanted to include all the children. She didn't want anyone to be left out, so it was probably the entire amount of girls living in Oakton in 1934.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** Because my nearest friend would be a mile down the road.

**Janet:** Yes

**Pat:** And I would think oh I wish I could play with her but I couldn't.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** I had to just play with my animals that I had which were the chickens and the ducks and everything.

**Janet:** (Laughing) What about how your mom managed during the depression? What did she do to keep things together?

**Pat:** We had a different family life than most people. You know most people had a father and a mother and the father went to work and the mother stayed home and took care of the children and that was and then most of them were farmers around here. But our house, our place was entirely different. My mother had been mistreated by my father so she came home when I was two and she lived with her parents whom I loved with all my heart – who were the owners of this

house you know. And they still had a son and a daughter still unmarried, so we had a big family. And I didn't - the depression didn't touch me like so many of the others because there were five people working in this family. Everyone but my grandmother was working. So we got along okay. But um, I think I got off my trend of thought.

**Janet:** Well I'm curious did your mom have a job?

**Pat:** So she had to work, yes. She went into Washington every day. She was a career woman.

**Janet:** How did she get into D.C. from here?

**Pat:** Well, she either took the trolley car or she drove, cause she and her sister had their own car by um 1936 I know.

**Janet:** Oh my.

**Pat:** And they drove into D.C. everyday. Ah, she was a modern woman before her time I think she always was.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** And um so they had to work five and a half days a week which meant Saturdays they worked until one o'clock.

**Janet:** What kind of work did they do?

**Pat:** She was a bookkeeper and she kept the books for an insurance company. She stayed with the same company for something like forty years.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** Up until the time she retired in her sixties. But she loved the work, she loved the people and she loved her boss.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Ah, let's see what else was I going to say. So I ah, we had to have a maid because my grandmother was in poor health and she was taking care of a five, six, seven year old. So we had a black lady who cleaned the house, served the meals, sometimes lived in, ah, the extra bedroom upstairs.

And um so my - the schoolmates all thought that I was a little rich girl. Well, of course, I wasn't cough – excuse me. But when I was only 6 the maid would walk me up to school every morning because she was afraid, my mother was afraid something would happen to me. Those were in the days when children got

**Janet:** abducted?

**Pat:** Kidnapped and things like that.

**Janet:** The Charles Lindbergh baby.

**Pat:** Yes, yeah about that time.

**Janet:** Yes

**Pat:** So mother was not going to take any chances, because I was her one and only.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** And ah, but I got a letter from one of my girlfriends years later and she said you were so lucky you had a nanny take you up to the school every day and she brought you home for lunch and changed your clothes and you had fresh clothes when you went back to school. I didn't know that.

**Janet:** Oh, isn't that interesting. Was it common place for children to walk home for lunch?

**Pat:** Yes, if you lived right around here you know.

**Janet:** Uh huh.

**Pat:** Why you did, you went home for lunch; because of the watery soup was the only think available in those days.

**Janet:** Um hum. And did, was there a bus service for children who lived further away or did everybody walk?

**Pat:** No, there were no buses I don't think; probably not until ah, the late thirties.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** Cause I did take a bus to Fairfax High from Oakton.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** But I didn't start to Fairfax High until thirty nine when I was thirteen.

**Janet:** Um hum, I don't want, I do want to ask you a little more about the World War II period. But before we do – do you recall when the trolley was build?

**Pat:** No, I don't, but I did look that up on the internet and I had it somewhere. I have it somewhere.

**Janet:** That's okay we can find it, and probably D'Anne Evans book will have a date.

**Pat:** Yeah, just look on the internet ole trolley line in Fairfax County or something. And you can get it all – I printed it and sent it to my son.

**Janet:** Do you think it was before World War II or after World War II; I am just curious.

**Pat:** My mother used the trolley in the twenties when she first went to D.C. to go to work because she didn't have the money to buy a car.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** So it was, I think it was in ah in working order for many many years prior to that; maybe even prior to the first World War.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** So that would be interesting.

**Janet:** So what would you say that that provided sort of a connection to the to I mean Oakton is what – 18miles outside of Washington. Did that provide a sense of connection or continuity? I mean did Washington seem like a far away place to people living in Oakton? Unlike now where you know it's not a big deal to go to the city.

**Pat:** Well, if you want to have a decent job you had to go to Washington

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** back in the 20's and the 30's. You couldn't get anything out here but just the tiniest amount of money for your work.

**Janet:** Uh huh.

**Pat:** And so my grandfather went into D.C. everyday cause he was a foreman on street construction. His son my uncle Buddy was a roller man so he went into Washington everyday. My mother did everyday and my aunt who was still single in the 20's and early 30's ah was a secretary to a lawyer and she went in everyday.

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** So from my point of view yes Washington was very close.

**Janet:** So you were some of the early commuters.

**Pat:** Yes, but other people who were farmers didn't have much association with Washington.



**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** Mr. Craig who was this dynamic worker went into Washington to the market every Saturday and he took his chickens and his produce and all kinds of things

**Janet:** um hum, um hum

**Pat:** and stayed there all day long. And his grandson who lives behind me John Craig who is a deputy sheriff now said that at the age of seven he went in to help his grandfather every Saturday

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** from morn until night.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** He said he would get so tired.

**Janet:** Oh.

**Pat:** Cough, excuse me.

**Janet:** And I'm now curious about what your recollections are of the impact of World War II on Oakton, or life in Oakton or you know.

**Pat:** One thing, we always had someone who would help us with the air raid practices because we had to practice for that possibility. Coughing. Excuse me. We had to close all our curtains you know and not have any candles or anything lit you know.

**Janet:** At night.

**Pat:** Because everything had to be a black out.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** And we had people, I think they called them air wardens who came around to check because we thought our safety was in danger or could be.

**Janet:** Um hum, um hum, being this close to Washington and not that far from the ocean right?

**Pat:** Yes, and even though I was a teenager all of us were reminded of the fact that we were living in a very scary world. And we would have to do everything we could to help in the war effort.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** And we had so much, um, cooperation in the schools, in the churches in the community. I have never known at any time in my life when people had banded together so beautifully. And

**Janet:** Um hum. Did you all feel the effects of rationing at all?

**Pat:** Yeah, oh yes, yes indeedy. Mother, you know, having to go into Washington everyday to work she had to get people to ride with her and help pay for it so that ah and by having passengers then they would be more lenient and they would say oh yes we will give you extra gas because you are bringing in a whole bunch of people. And my step father, who was not my step father at that time, had a seven passenger Plymouth from Clifton and he took six passengers with him.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** But the ration board was very um considerate knowing that he was taking all these people into work. And it was so necessary because a lot of people were working for the war effort, you know.

**Janet:** um hum. And did you all have food rationing at all?

**Pat:** Oh yes, yes and we couldn't buy, we could never find nylons.

**Janet:** Oh. (Laughing)

**Pat:** We started painting our legs you know at that time because of the fact there were no stockings available.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Ah you couldn't buy a car unless you really knew the right people cause cars were very; um instead of making cars they were making tanks and guns.

**Janet:** Sure, we needed the steel right.

**Pat:** So they couldn't do that. Ah, sugar was rationed.

**Janet:** Sugar.

**Pat:** And of course gasoline. And um there were other things rationed.

**Janet:** What about meats

**Pat:** We had our little ration book you know.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** Meats

**Janet:** Meats?

**Pat:** Oh, definitely meats.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** Yes, mother took in four teachers to balance her budget. And ah my grandmother got sick and was in a sanitarium which was very unusual in those days, you didn't have nursing homes.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** And the nearest one was in Takoma Park, Maryland.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** So after my mother finished working several nights a week she would go over to Takoma Park, Maryland to see my grandmother and then come home and get home around ten and get up and go to work the next day.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** I didn't see much of my mother in those days. But of course I had my grandparents, I had my grandfather who lived to be 82 years old and he was always up – something sturdy you know in my life.

**Janet:** Stalwart.

**Pat:** Someone I could fall back on and everything.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** And I loved him very dearly.

**Janet:** Um hum, and um did you know any of the young men here who might have been in the area who were called off to the draft?

**Pat:** I wrote to 30 fellows.

**Janet:** laughing 30 I don't think I ever knew that many.

**Pat:** Oh, I love to write letters I still write letters all the time to people, but yes, I wrote to 30. And um

**Janet:** Oh my.

**Pat:** One from Oakton was killed in action and made me very sad but luckily I didn't know him very well. His name was Foster Brazel and he was killed probably back in 92 (she meant 42) in the early days of the war. And of course when I graduated in 43 I would say 50% of the fellows in my class just immediately went

into the various branches of the services, service and ah yes, I thought that was my patriotic duty to write to those fellows and I tried to write happy letters you know; about what I was doing and how pretty it was in Oakton and how the people missed them and all that.

**Janet:** Good for you.

**Janet:** What about what happened after the war? Did those young men return to the area or did they end up somewhere else?

**Pat:** No, most of them return here and lots of them decided to live here the rest of their days. Quite a few of them did. And um some of these people who are still living in this picture from 1934 are still alive and in contact with me today.

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** Shirley Young, whose husband was I think a clerk of the board, a clerk of the court wasn't he? Eddie Young a few years back.

**Linda:** I believe so.

**Pat:** That's Shirley Young his wife (showing photograph).

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** She was Shirley tops.

**Linda:** My mother, I think, knows her as well.

**Pat:** Okay, yes because she goes to our church. Ah Kitty was one of the Smith's of my people and she's still living today. She lives in Florida, but I just say her recently. Margaret Beard lived in the old schoolhouse when it was rented out back in the 40's. And she lives in Seaton City today and I keep contact with her. So it, I think friendships from Oakton were always very precious. And we've latched onto them and kept them through the years.

**Janet:** Um hum. Um tell me a little bit about the period when you left the area and then when you came back. You mentioned to me I think on the phone that you were gone for a few years

**Pat:** Yes, not very far away.

**Janet:** Oh, okay, okay.

**Pat:** When I got married in 46 at the little chapel down here, why my husband and I found an apartment in Washington because we both were going to be working in Washington. And then, just a couple of years later his folks moved to Clifton, Virginia; on the outskirts of Clifton and we moved in with them on their property. So I lived all the way to Clifton. And then we decided we better have our own house so we ah bought a house in Manassas. So I still came back every week to see my mother, go to the church more or less not all the time to this church. And so I still had my fingers tied

**Janet:** Your ties here.

**Pat:** But in 83 when I was living close in Manassas close to my job with all my friends my mother had a terrible fall and I was an only child – I didn't want to return to Oakton. It was another time for me, I didn't want to but I felt in my heart I should; and it was the best decision I ever made and it wasn't my decision.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** It was the Lord above.

**Janet:** And so you came back at that point.

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** Now it must have been hard though to have to sell where you were

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** and just sort of pull up those roots

**Pat:** Oh yes, I liked my house and everything, but I was divorced so I didn't have a husband and my children were all grown, so I was free to come back to be with my mother and so we had our happiest times those last eleven years of her life because

**Janet:** And was she able to stay in the house?

**Pat:** Yes

**Janet:** because you were here

**Pat:** Yes, and she wanted to so badly. And she died in this house and that's what she wanted.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** And I said mother I'm going to try my best

**Janet:** Oh, god bless you.

**Pat:** But I didn't know whether I could or not.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** I was having a lot of heart problems then that would send me to the emergency room.

**Janet:** Um, I sorry and what type of work did you do during those years that you were in

**Pat:** Oh, well see I was – I stayed home for 25 years raising kids, because I had 5 kids.

**Janet:** Oh, I want to find out all their names in a minute.

**Pat:** But when I left to ah to start raising my family – I had a marvelous job at the District Court in the probation office right down in Washington.

**Janet:** Oh.

**Pat:** And I loved it, criminal justice work you know; it was just my cup of tea. But I knew that I had to stay home with the kids which I did. But then I had told my husband after the kids are grown I want to return to the business world. So I did and I worked as a private secretary for the Director of Finance for Prince William County.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** And I loved that; he gave me so much leeway. I got to use a County car when he wanted me to do errands. I did the switchboard at lunch time because I was fascinated with it – and for when the girls went to lunch. I learned to do computers for the first time because that

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** that was a new world.

**Janet:** Yes.

**Pat:** We're talking about the 70's you know.

**Janet:** Oh, yes.

**Pat:** Computers – I was able to kind of bloom like a rose; and I just loved every minute of it.

**Janet:** Um hum, and so when you left Manassas to come back here your kids were grown – did you take up a new profession here – once you relocated.

**Pat:** No, I just stayed with the County going to Woodbridge everyday to the County office. But I knew I had no choice.



**Janet:** um hum and how long did you do that commute from Oakton to Woodbridge.

**Pat:** Just two or three years because soon as I got to be Sixty two I said mother I'm taking my social security and I'm being home with you. And those were wonderful years. We just enjoyed each others company.

**Janet:** That's so nice. Now tell me where your children ended up.

**Pat:** Okay.

**Janet:** You have five.

**Pat:** Yes, because oh living in Oakton as a small child in the 30's, I had to play checkers by myself.

**Janet:** Aw.

**Pat:** I would play one side and then I would go to the other side

**Janet:** laughing

**Pat:** cause no one played with me and I was so lonely, that was the only thing about being an only child. And I said when I grow up even if I make a mistake I'm going to have a bunch of kids. And I made a mistake but I had a bunch of kids. Anyway, my oldest, and we had no money when the kids were growing up. My oldest went to Vietnam, worst year of my life but he came back safely. He got his own education at U.VA. - PhD in electrical engineering with no money from us at all.

**Janet:** Oh, my gosh.

**Pat:** He's sixty one now in business for himself and raising a family and I just always felt badly that we couldn't help him.

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** My first daughter was a seventeen year old bride and she has two children that are grown. And she was determined to have an education though so at forty six she graduated with her four year degree in English at George Mason.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** And I'm just so proud of um. Don my middle son always liked to do things, work with things you know how they're all different. And he was always tearing down motors and things like that when he was seventeen. Well he got into precision sheet metal when he was seventeen

**Janet:** Oh my.

**Pat:** And to this day he's still in precision sheet metal but he makes a good salary in it.

**Janet:** Oh yes.

**Pat:** And he stuck with it. Kenyon was my third son and he was kind of, kind of pushed aside it seemed because he was always getting into trouble. But today he lives in Plano, Texas. The only one who's out of the area; married a Texas gal so he won't be coming back to Virginia.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** Has his own Italian restaurant called Isabella's in Frisco, Texas and loves his work; oh he loves it.

**Janet:** Oh wonderful.

**Pat:** He started out at McDonalds went to Holiday Inn, went to Best Western, went to St Regis, you know up up

**Janet:** Up the ladder, yes how they do.

**Pat:** Ah, worked in Europe, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia all the same, you know kind of work. And now he's enjoying, well no he's struggling with his restaurant.

**Janet:** It's hard work, its hard work in a restaurant.

**Pat:** And now my fifth daughter, I mean my fifth child, my younger daughter has always had it hard, had to work much harder than anyone else; I don't know why. Her brothers and sisters say it because I kind of babied her a little bit more than the rest of them because I had the time. But she's doing well now too she works for an electrical company. She's a very hard worker and she can fix anything no matter what it is any kind of repairs.

**Janet:** That's a real aptitude.

**Pat:** Yes, so then as a result of that I have ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**Janet:** Oh my gosh and all but

**Pat:** And all of them here except the two little ones in Texas.

**Janet:** Wow.

**Pat:** And I fly out there a couple of times a year to see them. See the two little ones.

**Janet:** Do you write your grandchildren ever even though they may not completely appreciate you know the letter writing tradition?

**Pat:** Do you know that is something that I hardly ever do cause you see I see them every week so I have no need really to write to them.

**Janet:** um hum

**Pat:** And I talk to them on the phone all the time.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Ah, so no that hasn't entered – it's strange that I don't write to them because I write to every body else.

**Janet:** Have you as a writer have you ever considered doing a narrative of your own life?

**Pat:** Oh, yes I have one that I've done.

**Janet:** Oh, good.

**Pat:** Yes (Laughing).

**Janet:** And you'll make a copy of that available to the library maybe at some point? Keep us on your list.

**Pat:** I think I better edit it a little bit to make it better.

**Janet:** Of course, of course. But for your children and grandchildren.

**Pat:** Yes, I really should. Now my mother did the same thing. Well Ah, my mother left things and she said she was only going to put the nice things in she wasn't going to put the bad things in. And so that's what she did. So she left it and she wrote about ah where she was born which was on Jermantown road you know.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** And then about her marriage and then about this house. She wrote all about how this house was build when she was seven ah twelve years old. And how it felt and how she picked raspberries you know at two cents a quart.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** Yeah back in those days and thought it was big money. And how when she went out on a date she would walk over on Hunter Mill Road to some house over there; I think it's that little house right near where the new school, I mean where the old school is going to be. And she said, you know, I don't know I guess the

acoustics were better at this time around the time of the First World War or something. She said she would hear my grandmother calling from down here Mary, Mary. And she knew that her mother was coming after her so she would try to ignore it cause, you know, she wanted to stay with these people and have fun. And then my grandmother would show up in a raincoat over her gown and she would be so embarrassed.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** And then my grandmother's brother Uncle Clarence lived right on the corner of Jermantown Road and 123, the house is gone now, and they lived up there for a while – so she told all about that. And he had a pond where they could skate in the winter time

**Janet:** hum.

**Pat:** And let's see what else she told about. Oh that's about it, but that's very interesting. So if you need to have some of this available why you can certainly -

**Janet:** I think we would love to be able to make some copies of the things you would be comfortable with us copying.

**Pat:** Okay

**Linda:** Could we take just a short break.

**Janet:** Yes.

**[Recording paused]**

**Janet:** Who were, who are some of the people that you knew during the years in Oakton that are still around that you know of?

**Pat:** Wow that would be a most difficult question now that I am 82. Um, Paul Seffin who lives on Marbury is 86 and he went to Fairfax High and graduated a couple of years before I did.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** I went to school with his younger brother Cliff who is now deceased.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** And ah but I didn't know Paul in High School at all.

**Janet:** It is that four year age difference.

**Pat:** Right.

**Janet:** Yes, yes.

**Pat:** Hum, who do I know? Mary Renker was a wonderful lady in this community for years and years and years but she's been gone about five years now, I think.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** And she left quite a big hole in everyone's heart because she did everything, she was so dynamic.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Who is still living?

**Janet:** Did you know anyone from the Rice family? From the little blue

**Pat:** My mother did.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** My mother knew all those people thoroughly. She knew all the Taylor's who lived down that road.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** Ah, if I thought of it I might be able to think of someone; but there aren't too many people older than I am around here - left.

**Linda Byrne:** Then as you moved down closer to Vienna and there is the Stuntz home on the left side moving into Vienna. And Mayo Stuntz did you know that family?

**Pat:** Yes, yes and my, ah, mother was very close to Mayo and Connie. And ah I haven't had have too much association with them except at the few class reunions at of Oakton High School at the Elementary School which they have had from time to time, but almost all of them are gone now too.

**Linda:** Mayo talks about - taking - he worked at a hotel in the teens or twenties and I remember him saying one time it took about an hour to take the Trolley car which you spoke of earlier into Washington to get to his job which it's not uncommon today for it to take an hour to get into Washington.

**Pat:** Yes, because there are so many stops; you know there were several stops in Vienna, Dun Loring, several stops in Falls Church and you know it just took its time and the thing about the Trolley Car is that it would shake you.

**Janet:** I remember (Laughing).

**Pat:** But you know you were young and you just loved it. In fact it just shook you like a rag doll but that was thrilling for a teenager

**Janet:** Um hum. Now you said that you are still in touch with some other people who aren't necessarily in the area anymore. Who would be some of the people that you are still in touch with?

**Pat:** Well ah Kitty Spaulding who is the granddaughter of the Hockzer's family. She is a year younger than I am and she is still alive and kicking so to speak. And of course Shirley Hobbs-Young is a few years younger than me but she grew up in this church and lived over at Fairfax Circle when she was a little girl.

**Janet:** And where are they living now, do you recall.

**Pat:** Oh, um Shirley lives right in Fairfax.

**Janet:** Our County?

**Pat:** uh huh and ah Kitty lives in Arcadia, Florida most of the year.

**Janet:** And you had mentioned somebody who lives in Stevens City?

**Pat:** Oh yes, Margaret Beard Cohen is a couple of years older than me. She is somebody who is older than me. And ah, she was, she and I played together an awful lot when we were little because she lived in the old school house which was being rental property in the 40's and late 30's and she lives in Stevens City now. And I am trying to think of someone who is older than I am who's still around here. I can't think of anyone.

**Janet:** Tell me a little bit about what Hunter Mill Road actually looked like. I hear a rumor that there was actually a second very large Oak tree somewhere near there at some point in time.

**Pat:** Oh yes right there at the corner of Hunter Mill Road and Rt. 123 there was a lovely Oak tree and it had big roots. I remember those roots just stuck out, I think I have a picture of it somewhere, but I don't know maybe I don't. Um.

**Janet:** And what happened to that tree?

**Pat:** Well with all the black top all around it and everything, it couldn't survive. I am so surprised that that lovely White Oak on down there is still there.

**Janet:** I know it's amazing.

**Pat:** Because it is one of my favorite trees. Now there is a lovely White Oak right here too that looks like it has been here, maybe not as long as the one on Hunter Mill but close to it and ah so I love it.



**Janet:** I remember reading; I think it was in D'Anne Evans little history of Oakton that at one time the community was called Flint Hill. Was it ever called Flint Hill during your life time?

**Pat:** uh uh

**Janet:** No, okay that was?

**Pat:** No back at the turn of the Century.

**Janet:** Okay

**Pat:** And it was called Flint Hill because where um where Bob Evans Restaurant is now and near where the Flint, where the ah um

**Janet:** Post Office.

**Pat:** Where the ah no, where the school is.

**Janet:** Oh yeah Flint Hill School?

**Pat:** Yes, Flint Hill School is, ah there was a lot of flint rock. Huge flint rocks and I think they are they're still there when you drive into Bob Evans and you see these big rocks on the property

**Janet:** Oh, yes, yes, yes, oh yes.

**Pat:** of the Post Office

**Janet:** right

**Pat:** I think are those very rocks they are talking about that came from there.

**Janet:** Now there was the original school Flint Hill School House, the yellow brick building that was where the Bob Evans is now, remember it was moved to the.

**Pat:** Oh yes.

**Janet:** Now was that ever a residence at any point in time?

**Pat:** Yes, oh yes, and I have all that information. Now Francis Pickins Miller who was something in politics had that built in the early 30's, and they took, it has quite a history. They took the bricks from an old tavern in Fairfax

**Janet:** Oh.

**Pat:** to build it and I have the whole story here I should probably make a copy of it for you, for you because it tells in detail about how it was put together and it was a private home

**Janet:** It was a private home for a number of years

**Pat:** Yes um hum

**Janet:** and then at some point they needed it to become a school.

**Pat:** Yes, they needed it to become a school and then it was in the summer of 86 that it was moved across the road.

**Janet:** yeah

**Pat:** because I went up there that morning at 6:30 to take pictures. It was still dark and I took my six year old grandson with me and at noon he said grandma can we go home?

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** And I said oh yes, we had been there for six hours taking pictures.

**Janet:** Laughing. Um, any other observations about how life has evolved or changed in Oakton over the years? Do you still feel, you had said that there was a real sort of the ethos of the community was one of everyone helping one another and, you know, friendly and supportive in part because of the strong interlacing family ties.

**Pat:** Right.

**Janet:** But has that been lost?

**Pat:** I am afraid so except for the real old ones like me and there's only a handful of us and because now, Shirley Young for instance is a very caring person, she would do anything for anyone. Ah who else of the old-timers of the church, you know there's still a few and they still have that same closeness and interest in each other.

**Janet:** Um hum, and sense of responsibility.

**Pat:** Um hum yes, that's true.

**Janet:** And I guess with the growth of Oakton, when did Oakton really start to expand and grow was that in the 60's, the 50's? I I

**Pat:** It must have been in the 50's after I had left.

**Janet:** When did the shopping center, when was that big shopping center with the Giant ah built?

**Pat:** Ah

**Linda:** In the late 60's early 70's?

**Pat:** I think so and of course I was living in Manassas at that time.

**Janet:** At that time right.

**Pat:** And all my thoughts were of Manassas and how it was expanding like ooo! When we moved to Manassas in 57 there was one restaurant. How many today? I wouldn't guess

**Janet:** It is a restaurant destination spot now; people go there for the restaurants.

**Pat:** Right, yes.

**Janet:** But I guess at some point Oakton sort of became an official suburb of Washington., D.C.

**Pat:** Um hum, I remember during the 40's during the war I would go to USO's because I was 18 and I would be dancing with all these soldiers and I'd say "I live in Oakton", nobody had ever heard of Oakton.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** Where is Oakton, like it was at the ends of the earth you know?

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** So Oakton was unknown during the Second World War just about.

**Janet:** Um hum, um hum.

**Pat:** It wasn't even a place on the map. (Laughing)

**Janet:** And um what was the relationship between you know people living here in Oakton and then in Vienna obviously there were some family connections as well but did people go up to Vienna to shop or

**Pat:** It's a funny thing with our family we knew everything about Oakton. All my grandfather's sisters and brothers lived in Oakton and we were drawn to Vienna. But other people who just lived farther up towards Fairfax said they never went to Vienna they went to Fairfax all the time.

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** So there must have been some imaginary line there somewhere around 66 or something.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** But I know with us we used all the stores in Vienna and never went to Fairfax.

**Janet:** Um hum, um hum so if you were going doing your grocery shopping and so forth you would go to Vienna.

**Pat:** Right yes.

**Janet:** I was wondering

**Pat:** And yes, we had a Safeway in Vienna and a Safeway in Fairfax.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** And probably a hardware store in each place and so forth and so on.

**Janet:** Um hum but they had different community.....

**Pat:** But we were just drawn to Vienna.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** And then of course when I was real little my grandfather was always taking me to see one of his brothers or sisters who lived in Vienna.

**Janet:** Um hum, um hum.

**Linda:** When they put 66 in was there um any transition for Oakton in that? I know parts of 66 there were houses that were moved to other communities.

**Pat:** Yeah, Mr. Patram bought I think 27 houses at a very reduced price. See they are personal friends of mine and he was the one who moved all these houses. And we didn't know him until my mother got in touch with him way back and had him move this house but even before moved another house from 66 because like I said my mother was a wheeler and dealer.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** And um so he had to move all those houses and he put some on Jermantown Road and he put some other places. He would be an interesting person to talk to sometime.

**Janet:** Would you spell his name for us?

**Pat:** William Patram and he lives just on the other side of the golf course there ah at tish, tish, tish, Fairfax Circle.

**Janet:** Fairfax Circle Oh okay.

**Pat:** Um hum. He lives on Cornell Road.

**Janet:** Near the Army-Navy Golf Course.

**Pat:** Yes, uh huh. Cornell Road is where they have the big big houses. He lives in a big house. And um but he's just plain as an old shoe and so is his wife. They are two of my dearest friends. In fact I am suppose to go over there this afternoon. should I ask him if he would be up for an interview sometime?

**Janet:** That would be lovely.

**Linda:** Yes, yes.

**Pat:** Okay I will, now he really loves to talk about what he did because he has moved houses

**Janet:** That would be fantastic.

**Pat:** that were almost impossible to move in other areas and he's done it because ah he doesn't believe there's such a thing that you can't do something.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** I mean he thinks of the possibilities, he is a possibility thinker and of course he's 80 now and she's almost 80 but

**Janet:** Well that would be lovely.

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** That would be lovely. Well thank you so much this has been just the most wonderful interview that I have ever participated in.

**Pat:** Well if you would like to come back some time and see more of the stuff I have or see the pictures I took of the move or the pictures I took of the move of the Flint Hill School. Um I have about 70 albums in there

**Janet:** Oh my gosh.

**Pat:** I'll let you look as you go. And I have always, they tell me the story that when the kids were little and we had not very much money I would buy film sometimes when our cupboard was almost bare.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** But I am so glad because I got the cutest pictures of my kids when they were little and now of course they are in their 50's and early 60's. And

**Janet:** And they're very precious photos.

**Pat:** Yes.

**Janet:** And it is amazing how much their children and the great great grandchildren enjoy seeing them.

**Pat:** Oh the great grandchildren love to look through the pictures, yes, yes indeed.

**Janet:** Well I think, Linda can I ask you if you might ask Linda Smyth or you might make a determination about whether it would be um useful, helpful to make

some copies of some of these documents and photos for the Project and whether there are some other things. You know I suspect that the Fairfax County Public Library Virginia Room and Historical Society might have a great interest in some of these materials.

**Pat:** They have my grandmother's autobiography that I typed up in 1982 and gave to them but that is all that I have given them.

**Janet:** Yeah.

**Linda:** Yes definitely in fact I have made some little notes here of ones that we would love to make copies of for sure and we will go over some of the others and ah yeah.

**Pat:** Okay, yes.

**Linda:** One question if I could ask you, what would you, if you were giving advice to people moving into Oakton today and in the future what would you say to them?

**Pat:** Well I would be in hopes that they would find friendly people. Now it may be because I have lived here all my life but I think the greatest thing is to go to the Giant, stand in line and talk to a whole bunch of people that you've never seen before in your life and just like you've known them all your life, yet never see them again.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Pat:** I think that's one of the greatest things about Oakton. And, but I don't know whether it's because I am old that people talk to me more easily or because I have lived here for a long time and I look familiar. But I'm in hopes that that is still a policy of people around here.

**Janet:** Um Hum.

**Pat:** Ah, I have never been in the North but I have heard people say that you never talk to people in line when you're up North, you know.



**Janet:** Hum.

**Pat:** And my goodness that's you know invading your privacy or something, and I I would think that we do have kind of that southern hospitality I hope.

**Janet and Linda:** Um hum.

**Pat:** But that's just me so it could be all wrong. (Chuckling)

**Janet:** I don't think so; I noticed the difference from moving from a little neighborhood in Fairfax a little further west to Oakton 10 years ago.

**Pat:** Uh hum.

**Janet:** And I immediately felt a sense of community here

**Pat:** GOOD.

**Janet:** that I had not felt and I don't know why

**Pat:** Good.

**Janet:** and I would really have to think about what the difference - but people were helpful people were if they found out that you were interested in a certain thing

**Pat:** Uh huh.

**Janet:** they would make a point of contacting you to tell you about something that was going on. My neighbor found out that I actually had a vegetable garden and she brought down a whole bunch of canning supplies to me that she didn't need anymore

**Pat:** Nice, yes.

**Janet:** and which I use to this day and those kinds of little gestures that I think make it feel like a true home.

**Pat:** Yes, yes. My mother oh even up to her older ages she was always making cakes or cookies or something for her friends who were not feeling well or something and I haven't done that - I think oh I should do that, but I don't. But I write a lot more letters than my mother.

**Janet:** I was going to say that you are documenting things and that's very important so many people don't do that.

**Pat:** Yes.

**Linda:** Janet, I think you are carrying on the tradition of baking.

**Pat and Janet:** (Laughing)

**Linda:** Going before the Board of Supervisors for the Library, I believe that you brought them some cookies or brownies.

**Janet:** Cookies.

**Pat:** I see (to Janet) now do you live on Hunter Mill Road or Marbury?

**Janet:** Marbury.

**Pat:** Now how far back, straight back or to the left or where?

**Janet:** I am about half way down the main part of the road, um before you get to where Mr. Suffin's house is

**Pat:** um hum, I see.

**Janet:** just before that, I am the last house before you cross over the creek.

**Pat:** Oh I see um huh.

**Janet:** It's on the left and set back a little bit.

**Pat:** Oh I tried to check on him this morning and he didn't answer, but sometimes he is very slow and he is in the bath.

**Janet:** Yeah.

**Pat:** I will check on him again.

**Janet:** Okay.

**Pat:** But I've got so many people I check on that I, it just. I got mail from the people on the other side and the man down here, this is the craziest thing he collects it, then he brings it to me, I sort it then I send it to Arizona. Isn't that the craziest thing you have ever heard of?

**Janet:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** But these I've have known since I was a kid so I'm doing it.

**Janet:** Ahhh.

**Pat:** But I am a real patsy you know - I do the dumbest things. And ah but anyway.

**Linda:** I am sure you are greatly appreciated in the community

**Janet:** Absolutely.

**Linda:** for the things that you do.

**Pat:** I use to do an awful lot for my church; you know giving the children's sermon, doing the nursery

**Janet:** Oh wow.

**Pat:** helping with Vacation Bible School and everything. But now after having a couple of surgeries on my ankle I don't dare work in the nursery cause I'm just too clumsy with the little ones.

**Janet:** um hum.

**Pat:** But I do what I can.

**Janet:** Yeah. Well I want to thank you again for this wonderful,

**Pat:** Well you are quite welcome it is so nice to meet you.

**Janet:** wonderful experience, I feel like....

**Pat:** And feel free to come back if there are any other questions.

**Janet:** You may regret those words.

**All three:** (Laughing)

**Pat:** I love having people. I love having people. You know I was living by myself and I didn't like living by myself so we got two dogs, you know my security. Well I don't have a security system.

**Janet:** No.

**Pat:** And ah, but my grandson came down from New York; he's 40 and his wife, to take care of me when I had these surgeries in 06 and they're still here. And then I have a Korean Methodist Minister living upstairs and then I am bringing in another lady another person who is going to rent the other room upstairs.

**Janet:** Excellent.

**Pat:** And so I am going to make my budget work.

**Janet:** Um hum.

**Linda:** Good for you.

**Janet:** It is a challenge.

**Pat:** Oh it is.

**Linda:** Thank you.

**[Recording paused]**

**Linda:** Pat Price has a little correction to make in our interview.

**Pat:** In reading a Chronicle of the Dwyer Johnson family again by my great Aunt Lydie Synder I found that I had made a mistake about my great grandfather Elijah Dwyer. He fought with the 21<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Calvary and his records can be found at the courthouse in Doylestown, PA. I was correct in saying that he fought in the Battle of Cold Harbor and also in the first Battle of the Wilderness. Thank you.